

114.52

PROJECT STATUS REPORT				REPORTING PERIOD April 1954	
1. CRYPTONYM		2. DIVISION OR BRANCH		3. COUNTRY	
a. Program	b. Project			Target	Base
	OBOFUS	SE-1		Albania	Greece
5. NAME OF CASE OFFICER		ROOM NO.		EXTENSION	SIGNATURE
		1313 J		672	
6. TYPE OF PROJECT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT					
7. STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> LIQUIDATING					
8. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED		O/S	U.S.	9. FY ALLOTMENT TO DATE	
U.S. -----		17			
FOREIGN NAT'L -----		65			
TOTAL		82			

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

11. Summary

Mission and Plan

Utilisation of all available covert assets to exploit the resistance potential in Albania, undermine the Soviet power complex, develop a covert offensive in support of U.S. policy aims in the Balkans, and when feasible, to support a coup d'etat to replace the Communist regime with one acceptable to the West.

Summary

Paramilitary

On 5 April, the trial of the Apple and Plum Team members, whose capture and impending trial were first announced on 29 December 1953, began. The trial lasted approximately 5 days; all defendants were convicted. Five team members and a principal agent recruited by Apple Team inside Albania were condemned to death by shooting. One agent, who has been a noted resistance figure since the Communists assumed power in Albania, was sentenced to hang, a fate ordinarily reserved for common criminals. A minor contact of Apple Team was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. The executions were carried out on approximately 15 April. Three other members of the Apple Team were reportedly killed immediately upon landing. Two team members remain unaccounted for but are presumed to have been killed in the course of their interrogations or sentenced administratively for refusing to cooperate at the trials. (See Special Report "Tirana Trials of CIA Agents" dated 20 April 1954.)

Political-Psychological

(1) Albanian emigre politics continued to be turbulent during April. In addition to the discord in the Balli Kombetar Party, the Legalitet Party was torn with dissension; some party members were dismissed by the president of the party and others resigned in protest. There are reports from Egypt and Turkey that King Zog is encouraging a reorganization of the Legalitet Party, which is monarchist in nature. There are indications that the British are behind some of the efforts of the dissident "Professor Group" of the Balli Kombetar to break up the reconstituted HQPA. The final outcome of all of this political maneuvering is still uncertain.

(2) Preliminary discussions

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(2) Preliminary discussions were held with a cleared lawyer on the incorporation of the NCFA. No further action on the incorporation can be taken until the return to the U.S. of Mr. Hasan Dosti, President of the NCFA.

(3) In the hope of partially counteracting the internal propaganda effect of the trial of the Apple Team members, on 13 April a leaflet was dropped over Tirana proclaiming the condemned agents as martyrs to the cause of Albanian liberation.

(4) The fortnightly Committee newspaper Shqipëria was published on schedule in Rome. If plans now under consideration permit, the newspaper will be moved to New York and published there under the direction of the NCFA New York office.

(5) The clandestine radio transmitter located near Athens maintained a regular broadcast schedule during April.

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